

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3809

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005

BAN ON USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR NON AGRICULTURAL WORK

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the non-agriculture work under which the use of land is increasing alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government is contemplating to enact a law to impose ban on the use of agricultural land for other purpose; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): The land-use classification data indicates that the area under non-agricultural uses has increased from 16.48 million hectare in 1970-71 to 24.24 million hectare in 2002-03.

The factors responsible for conversion of agriculture land to non-agricultural purposes are Urbanisation, Industrialisation, Development of transport infrastructure including roads, Tourism, Brick making etc.

(b) & (c): Land is a State Subject and therefore steps to stop conversion of agriculture land are to be taken by the respective State Governments. Government of India have issued National Land Use Policy Outline (NLPO) to all the States and Union Territories for follow up action. One of the action points on NLPO relates to checking diversion of highly productive land for non-agricultural purposes. Some of the States are having legislative mandate while some other States are having executive instructions in this regard.